

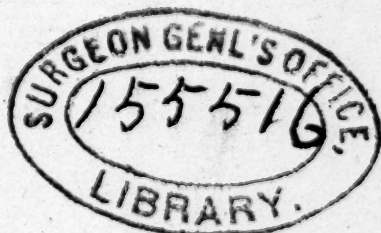
M E T H O D S
O F
C U R E,
IN SOME PARTICULAR CASES OF
I N S A N I T Y:
THE
E P I L E P S Y,
HYPOCHONDRIACAL AFFECTION,
HYSTERIC PASSION,
A N D
N E R V O U S D I S O R D E R S.

P R E F I X E D
WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF EACH OF THOSE COMPLAINTS.

✓ B Y
W. P E R F E C T, SURGEON,
AT WEST MALLING, IN KENT.

— *Mentem Janari; Corpus ut ægrum Cernimus; & fleeti Medicina
posse videmus.* LUCRET.

P R I N T E D F O R T H E A U T H O R,
B Y T. F I S H E R, AT R O C H E S T E R;
And Sold by J. DODSLEY, Pall-Mall; and N. CONANT, (Successor to
Mr. WHISTON,) Fleet-Street, LONDON.



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P R E F A C E.

IF an anxious care, to improve the most important branches of his profession, by the faithful communication of some practical truths, selected from cases successfully treated; with an earnest desire, to disseminate, whatever may be in his power to collect for the direction or assistance of others,

others, may justify the intention of the following pages; at the same time, that his Mode of Cure, does not appear irrational, intricate, or repugnant to sound practice: the AUTHOR has to hope for the applause of the unprejudiced, and but little to fear from the reproof of the illiberal.



METHODS

METHODS of CURE
IN SOME PARTICULAR
CASES of INSANITY, &c.

M A D N E S S

"IS a disorderly inconstitence of ideas. This most terrible calamity, in its *original state*, seems to admit of no other human definition, than that of

"Reason buried in the Body's Grave."

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And

And if hereditary, is not removeable by any method, which the science of phyfic, even at its present much improved state, is able to suggest. In which unhappy and irremediable stage, proper management alone seems all that can be done; yet, in its *consequential state*, arising from Epilepsy, Child-birth, Fevers, Anxiety, excessive Grief, Frights, Intenseness of Study, irregular Living, or strong and ungoverned Passions, the aid of medicine cannot too soon be called in.—Accordingly, the late learned and celebrated Dr. *William Battie*, in his most excellent Treatise on Madnefs, says, “Laxity, whenever it intervenes between spasm and delirious preffure, and thereby becomes a remoter cause
of

of consequential Madnefs, admits of cure, if timely and properly applied; and very often the weakened membranes spontaneously recover their former elastic tone, provided the spasmodic impulse is abated, before their constituent fibres are distracted beyond that natural tendency to approximation which was originally implanted in them."

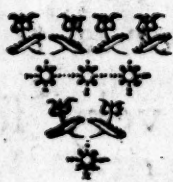
MADNESS, consequential to gradual or chronical congestions, occasioned by gluttony or idleness, easily yields to medical cure, if seasonably and properly applied. Madnefs, consequential to, or accompanied with other disorders, affords no particular prognostic but what arises from those disorders, when

considered as primary distempers, distinct and separate from Madness itself. Anxiety, when it arises from some fault in the internal frame and constitution of the nervous substance, which is thereby rendered too sensible like original Madness, and for the same reason is not radically curable; but when its only cause is a laxity or defect of those external integuments which were given to the nervous substance for its defence; in such case, Anxiety, however afflicting, promises better success. — And here let me be permitted to add this sensible writer's annexed observation on Insensibility or Idiotism; which, when arising, he says, from an internal and constitutional defect of the organs designed to excite sensation;

or

or when it is a symptom or consequence of original Madness: like original Madness, and for the same reason, must be pronounced incurable by art: but, what is very remarkable, and much to be lamented, when Insensibility is the effect of consequential Madness; or when it may be attributed to the preter-natural closeness and rigidity of the nervous integuments, or to obstructions in the contiguous vessels, though it may seem as curable as consequential Anxiety; yet, in fact, (whatever is the reason of the difference) it is very seldom relieved either by art or nature. The antecedent signs of Madness are many and various; particularly, a redness and suffusion of the eyes with blood, a tremulous

mulous and constant vibration of the eye-lids, a change of disposition and behaviour, most extravagant, unnatural, and inconsistent ideas, supercilious looks, haughty carriage, disdainful or obscure expressions, grinding of the teeth, unaccountable malice to particular persons, little sleep, violent headache, quickness of hearing, incredible strength, insensibility of cold, &c."



CASE

C A S E I.

A GENTLEMAN, aged fifty-eight, was in January 1770, put under my care as an insane patient. The cause of his disorder was attributed to a sudden transition in his circumstances, from easy and comfortable, to doubtful and precarious; his complaints were great pain in the head, continual noise in his ears, at intervals a depression or exaltation of spirits, his water was very high-coloured, he passed whole nights without sleep, sometimes raved, and was convulsed, and his attention was invariably fixed on one object; namely,

namely, that he was ruined and undone! which was his incessant exclamation by night and day. He had taken strong purges, antimonial vomits, ammoniac draughts, sagapenum and steel had been exhibited in continued doses, issues, venæsection, a seton, and blisters, had been tried for a series of time; bathing: and, in short, almost every thing seemed to have been done without any visible alteration for the better. He had, however, never been fixed in a proper place of retirement, nor had the relations ever sufficiently excluded him from company and the conversation of *curious impertinence*. When I undertook the care of this person, he appeared very impatient of contradiction, and even talking to him,

in

in the gentlest manner, would ruffle him to misconstruction of all that was said; I therefore prohibited all intercourse with his friends and relations for a fixt space of time; for, as the ingenious Dr. *Battie* truly observes, "The visits of affecting friends as well as enemies ought strictly to be forbidden." And this injunction was on their side punctually observed, otherwise I might have met with insurmountable obstacles in the execution of my curative plan; which was begun by applying a blister to the back, and confining the patient to a still and almost totally darkened room; I never suffered him to be spoke to by interrogation or reply, nor permitted any one to visit him but such whose busi-

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ness

ness it was to supply him with his aliment, which was light, cooling, and easy of digestion; at the same time that his constant drink was weak and diluting; this was absolutely necessary, as his regimen, although frequently directed to be cool and light, had never been properly attended to; a circumstance exceedingly blameable, and to be only imputed to the mistaken indulgence of his friends. For twelve nights successively he used the warm pediluvium, which resting him something better than he had long before done, I was induced to go a step farther, and try the effects of opium, which I began in the evening of the thirteenth day after he came to me, in the quantity of fifteen drops of the Elixir Pargoricum,

regoricum, which slept him an hour at a time; and through the day following he appeared much easier, and less anxious than usual; the elixir was now repeatedly increased till his nights were thoroughly composed, and his days rendered so free from perturbation of spirits, hurry and confusion of thoughts, that he talked rational and just, and seldom broke out into passionate expressions. In this course I persevered for nearly four months, every second, third, or fourth night, as occasion required, administering a sufficient dose of lenitive electuary, to prevent too great a constipation of the bowels from the repeated use of the paregorics; his reason now returned, his imagination grew stronger and less

confused, he spoke of things as they really were, and of the cause of his unhappiness with dispassionate coolness and resigned moderation. The opiate and pediluvium were gradually decreased, and entirely left off on the second of June following, after being with me fifteen weeks and three days; when I restored him to his relations in a state of Sanity, which he has happily preserved to the present time.



CASE

C A S E II.

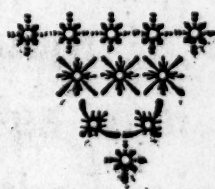
ON December the 29th, 1770, I was consulted by letter in the case of a Gentleman, in Carey-street, *London*; he was about the age of two-and-twenty, and, till within twelve months before, had enjoyed a rational mind and good state of health; but, in consequence of a disappointment in a treaty of marriage, from a chearful disposition he at once became sad, dull, and pensive, destitute of his wonted resolution, with almost a total loss of appetite, sleep, and spirits, and fond
of

of solitude; for some weeks together he scarcely spoke a word, and from a florid complexion became pale and wan. In about three months after this melancholy dejection took place, he was seized with a drivelling, which continued four or five days; during which time his speech was facilitated, his appetite mended, and he enjoyed a partial return of his wonted vivacity; but no sooner did this discharge leave him than he reverted to his former gloomy and dejected state. A physician of eminence had in vain been consulted, and the ptyalism periodically returned with every full moon, brought with it its exhilarating and left its distressing effects. In this state he continued for the space of eight months

months, when he was entrusted to my management and care on the 15th day of January 1771; and finding, upon the strictest enquiry, that many probable methods of cure had ineffectually been referred to, and supposing, by this periodical discharge of the salival glands, that Nature had shewn an effort of self-assistance; and as the patient was not altogether in such a state of laxity as to prohibit the experiment, and particularly desirous to try it, I resolved to prolong the next monthly sputation by the assistance of calomel, exhibited at proper distances in quantities proportionate to the strength of the patient: accordingly, about a week before the expected return of the flux, I every night, at bed-time, gave him
two

two grains of calomel, made into a small pill with conserve of roses; about the fifth day he complained of forenefs in his gums, and on the fixth the falival difcharge commenced, which I encouraged moderately, fupporting the patient with a diet adapted to his fituation; he was chearful, and, except the forenefs of his mouth and gums, made no complaint at all. I continued the flux, in a fmall degree, till he had paffed the following new moon, (at which time I perceived no increafe of the ptyalifm) when I began gradually to carry off the mercury by lenient purges, but the fputation did not entirely ceafe till the end of the feventh week from the firft day of giving the calomel. I opened him an
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issue in his arm, and advised him to a purging draught at the change of every full moon. The ptyalism never once returned; the cortex was, for some time, exhibited to brace up and strengthen the habit, and he was so thoroughly recovered, that I am well-informed he has not endured one day's illness, since he left my house on the second day of May 1771.



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CASE

L W J
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CASE

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C A S E III.

A GENTLEMAN, aged forty-five, after having been subject for some years to acute rheumatic pains, without any apparent cause, became at once dull and melancholy; infomuch, that he could not follow his business, was frequently watchful, timorous, and despondent, and more than once made an attempt on his own life; he was first attacked in the beginning of September 1773, and had then only tried the advice of an apothecary in the

town where he lived. In November I was desired to visit him, and found him seated in his customary attitude, of his head reclining upon his arm, and his eyes fixed to the ground, as if lost in profound thought; I asked him several questions, but received no reply. I was informed he had taken vomits and purges, and had then by him a volatile mixture; he passed but little water, his belly was bound, and his stomach and bowels were much inflated with wind; the pulse was slow and hard, and he had been subject to the bleeding piles, which were now stopt; and the day before I saw him, he had ejected, by vomit, a great quantity of dark-coloured bile.—Little or no regard had ever been paid to his regimen,

regimen, and as his appetite was but very small at the best, he had been suffered to indulge it with high-sauced meats, and other things, directly opposite to the state of his case; wine, malt liquor, and sometimes rum or brandy, had not been denied him; and his unwillingness to move had prevented him to take exercise in the open air in a proper manner. At the time I took him to my house he had the most *incurious aspect* I ever beheld, and insensible to a near degree of idiotism; in so much, that a servant was always obliged to dress, undress, and feed him. In a few days I bled him, to the quantity of six ounces; the complexion of the blood proved the vessels to be loaded with a superabundant quantity

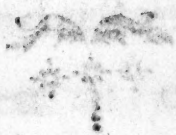
tity of humours, which clogg'd the circulation. I prohibited his wonted freedom of diet, and confined him to a slender and cooling one; he was frequently carried into the air, and, had daily given him in broth, two drachms of soluble tartar, with one ounce of compound cinnamon water, to a pint. The pulse was greatly softened by the first bleeding; by the second, (at the distance of three weeks,) more; and, by the third, at the distance of ten weeks from the first, with a strict perseverance in the above antiphlogistic plan, and proper exercise, the patient was recovered to his right senses and understanding. Bleeding was now used at discretion, the diet enlarged, and he left me hearty and well

well in the March following as he came to me in November; since this cure, I have had three melancholics much relieved by phlebotomy. In a low state of melancholy, where the pulse is oppressed and hard, and the solids not too much relaxed, it is often justifiable, to increase the circulation of the fluids; and, a few months since, I had a case of the kind from MARDEN, in this county, where venæsection had universally been prohibited by every gentleman of the faculty who had seen her; and yet this patient recovered by repeated bleedings only.



CASE

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C A S E IV.

ALADY, in the 37th year of her age, of a delicate constitution, in lying-in of her second child, and about a month after her delivery, was seized with a shivering fit, succeeded by a fever, delirium, inflammation of the eyes, and watching. She was attended by Gentlemen, eminent in the medical art; by whose assistance, in about the space of three weeks, she was so far recovered as to be able to walk across the room; when, on a sudden, from a mistaken apprehension of her

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husband's conduct, she became anxious, irresolute, incoherently talkative, turbulent, and so mischievous, that her attendants were obliged to confine her; raving, foaming at the mouth, involuntary laughter, or loud lamentation ensued; from a pleasing, open, cheerful countenance, her face was contracted to a rigidly emaciated and truly maniacal appearance; and, from a decent and delicate choice of words, her expressions bordered upon blasphemy, or vented the rankest obscenity. The general methods had been referred to, under the direction and care of a most eminent physician, by whose advice she had been four times bled, within the space of three months; blisters had been prescribed for the occiput, back,

back, and legs; a seton had been fixt in her neck; to lenient purges cathartics had succeeded; the gums, and fetid anti-hysterics, had been administered in abundance; vomits often prescribed, and cold-bathing not omitted. All painful applications, and every method, hitherto used, had rather aggravated than lessened her complaint; and, in a state of Insanity, little short of raving, she was committed to my care in May 1773; she had then a blister open on her back, and an issue in her arm; but as no good effect had ever accrued from muscular irritation, they were both suffered to dry up, and in a few days there was no discharge from either. I lodged her in a quiet, retired, darkened room, gave her mag-

nesia, to occasionally relax the bowels; and, for the heat and quickness of pulse, two spoonsful of a neutral mixture every five or six hours, with an addition in the evening of a few drops of the paregoric elixir. In ten days the spasms abated, the febrile heats were allayed — the pulse, from near a hundred, was, at times, reduced to below eighty; when a decoction of the bark, with nitre, was made use of. The intervals, from a few hours at first, were, in three weeks time, prolonged to a day, and sometimes to two; from a week to a fortnight, three weeks; and, at length, till the frenzy entirely subsided. During the continuance of this course, I suffered no one to visit or converse with her

her but myself and one female attendant, the relations and acquaintance being strictly enjoined from the first not to come near her. By means of the above practice, retirement, and a regimen properly adapted to her case, in November of the same year, I had the happiness to restore this Lady to her worthy partner and family, and the chearful reception of a large circle of genteel acquaintance, who had experienced many anxious feelings on her deplorable situation.



CASE

C A S E V.

A LADY, about forty years of age, from a violent fanatical affection, which had possessed her mind for some months, at length became indifferent to every enjoyment of life, unable to perform the domestic duties of her family, and had given several evident proofs of Infanity; her ideas in general, where inadequate, gloomy, and depressed; her apprehensions misfounded, and her life such a burden to herself, that more than once she would have put an end to her own existence, had she
not

not been happily prevented. In this wretched state she was conveyed to ~~London~~ for advice; received medicines usually given melancholics; and particularly the *tinctura melampodii*, whose efficacy, as well as the specifical antimanical qualities, ascrib'd to the black hellebore in general, is, in my opinion, *highly exceptionable*: a blister was also opened between the shoulders; but, in less time, than it could be reasonably expected she should find relief, her relations, for the conveniency of her being placed nearer to them, removed her, in March 1774, to my house. A fixt pallid melancholy seemed strongly impressed on her features; her eyes look'd wild and staring; her nights were watchful and restless; and she often
talked

talked of religion in a confused, timorous, and mistaken manner. All books, of religious tendency, I caused to be removed from her sight; forbade her the use of a Testament, which she had been suffered to have continually in her possession, and ordered the servant not to answer any interrogations she might propose upon pious matters, or even to speak to her thereon. She had been too closely confined, I therefore gave her exercise in the open air, every morning and afternoon; and, as the pulse was hard and tense, on the 6th day after she came to me, I took off four ounces of blood, and exhibited a small bolus of nitre and Russia castor, every night and morning for three weeks; when an expectoration, which

was habitual to her, and which had ceased, from her first being taken ill, again returned; and other salutary excretions following, the patient every day recovered strength, appetite, and firmness of mind; and, at the close of the seventh week, from her coming to me, desiring to return home, she did, to the heart-felt satisfaction of a most worthy tender husband, and an affectionate deserving family; who have cheerfully and voluntarily confirmed the above cure, to the advantage of the author, by the grateful relation of it to their general acquaintance.

S O M E Cases of Insanity, wherein CUTANEOUS Eruptions have been particularly advantageous to the Patients under his care, might not improperly have followed here; but, as the Author hopes, in process of time, by strict observation, and some experimental disquisitions, by THOSE means to cast some new lights on the Cure of MANIACS, it might be thought premature and inconclusive in him, at this time, to treat of the particulars relative to such Cases.

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EPILEPSY:

“ Called also, the FALLING SICK-
NESS, from the sudden falling
down of the Patient in the FIT.”

IT is an observation of the celebra-
ted Mead's, that “ this disease owes
its origin to so many different constitu-
tions of the body, that the same re-
medy which succeeds in one case, often
fails in another; and therefore different
medicines, are to be tried, and great re-
gard must be paid to the times, in which,
the paroxysms usually return, to effect

a cure." In some patients, this disorder is hereditary, and gives no notice of its accession; in others, it is consequential, and previous to the fit, there is a weight in the head, stupidity, pain in the joints, loss of memory, broken and interrupted sleep, tingling in the ears, frequent yawning, unusual dread, palpitation of the heart, wind and rumbling in the belly, and involuntary stools. The fit is usually attended with a deprivation of the senses, gnashing of the teeth, frothing at the mouth, sometimes the tongue is bit almost asunder, and there is a violent tremor and agitation of the whole body. The fits are prolonged, and curtailed, according to the various original causes. In some, they will return upon the least

least perturbation of mind; in others, periodically, to a fixt hour, day, or month, according to the changes of the moon. Happening to children, about the time of dentition, they generally cease with the cutting of the teeth. It is consistent with the opinion of some medical writers, of good authority, "that if these fits happen after puberty, they are seldom cured." The first annexed case, however, will serve to contradict this assertion; but, notwithstanding that, the cure, in general, will be found much more difficult when the fits, in either sex, happen after the fifteenth year.

CASE

[illegible]

C A S E VI.

A YOUNG MAN, of a cachectical habit, had an issue in his arm from his thirteenth to his twenty-third year; at which time he caused it suddenly to be dried up, and found no ill effects from the desiccation till about three months afterwards; when, after some days complaining, of weight in his head, and pain in his stomach, he was attacked with an epileptic fit, attended with violent convulsions. The cause was not immediately imputed to a cessation of the

the discharge from the arm by the issue. A blister was applied to his back, he was twice blooded, and some medicines of the alterative kind were given him by the gentleman to whom he at first applied; notwithstanding which, the fit returned on that very day fortnight from its first attack. He was now advised to the cold bath, and an issue was re-opened in his arm; but to little or no purpose, for the fits returned frequently and irregularly. The least perturbation of mind, hurry or fright, would bring them, and it was not unusual for him, to have them sometimes three, four, and even five times, in a day and a night. It was on the 25th of September 1773, that he was recommended to my care. I began the cure by the

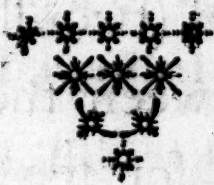
Peru-

Peruvian bark and steel in an electuary, preceded by a gentle emetic, and drew a seton between the shoulder blades in the direction of the spine. For the first week I perceived little or no difference in the fits; but after that time, he had a total remission of them for fourteen days together: an interval of ease and hope, which he had not enjoyed from the beginning of his illness, except in the first space of the fits, as already mentioned. The *seton* was very troublesome and painful at first; but in some little time the soreness abated, and (two issues being previously fixt between the scapulæ,) after being open for ten weeks, it was suffered to dry up, as was also the issue in the arm. By the Christmas

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follow-

following, the patient was entirely well of the fits; and soon afterwards, the issues in the back were reduced to one, which he has kept open to the present time, and has not had the least return, of the epileptic paroxysm, since the second day of November 1773. The Peruvian bark and steel, in an electuary, he took through the whole course, and once a day for twelve months afterwards.



CASE

C A S E VII.

A GENTLEMAN, aged forty-four, after a habit of excessive drinking, for more than six years, was suddenly seized with an epileptic fit in the month of May 1773. After which he was much troubled with wind in his stomach and bowels, and a great indigestion; his complexion, from florid, was changed to a pale yellow. The fits had now followed him through every mutation of the moon for three months; and, although a consciousness of the ill effects, arising from the per-

nicious indulgence of too much liquor,
 might have induced him to a forbear-
 ance thereof, yet it was scarcely possi-
 ble to restrain him from the excessive
 use of it, as usual. In August he was
 advised to go to Bath, which, with some
 reluctance, was complied with; but,
 neither the journey, the chalybeate
 quality of the springs, nor the excellent
 advice, to be collected from that cele-
 brated spot of genteel resort, was of
 any great service to him; and he re-
 turned in the beginning of the October
 following, in much the same state as
 when he set out upon his journey; with
 this advantage, however, that he could
 now content himself, for a whole day
 together, without spirituous liquors.
 This, indeed, he had found to be the
 general

general advice of every physician he had consulted. Wine, rum, brandy, or geneva, made weak with water, were adopted in their stead; and his diet was, in general, of the lightest, and most easily digestible kind. It was, at this time, he conferred the favour on me, of expressing a partiality to my advice, with the resolution of persevering in whatever plan of medicine I should lay down to him. The epileptic electuary, prescribed by Dr. Mead, had never been tried: in the use of this medicine he therefore persisted for nearly two months; but unsuccessfully. The case was obstinate, the fits returned periodically to the quadratures of the moon, and with as much force as ever; factitious cinnabar and musk he had ineffectually

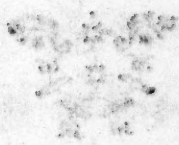
fectually taken in great quantities, both at Bath, and previous to his journey thither: blisters and issues had been repeatedly made to little or no effect, and, in January 1774, I drew a seton between his shoulders, in the same direction as in the preceding case; which, with a strict conformity to regimen, and by the use of a strong decoction of the valerian and cortex, in the beginning of the April following, the fits entirely left him; he recovered his usual health and spirits, and has not been afflicted with any epileptic symptoms since. In this case, it may not be improper to observe, that the patient's changing an irregular to a regular course of living, was a great step towards his cure; yet, I am firmly of opinion,

opinion, *that*, alone, unassisted by the seton, valerian, and cortex, might not have been found virtually sufficient to have subdued the fits. The two preceding cases serve to furnish us with means of relief in the *symptomatic* epilepsy; but, in *the original disorder*, little, I believe, is to be expected from medicine. Several cases of that kind having occurred to me; where, the utmost I was able to boast of, was a temporary mitigation, and, (that, but very seldom,) of the severest symptoms.



CASE

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THE
HYPOCHONDRIAC
AFFECTION;

“ Known also by the names of
HYP, VAPOURS, and MELAN-
CHOLY,”

IS a disorder attended with such a
multiplicity of symptoms, that it is
morally impossible to describe every
one; but, in general, the stomach and
intestines are greatly inflated, and in
the progress of the disorder the patient
suffers much, from windy eructations.

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The

The principal signs of this disagreeable change of the natural state of the mind, are, a loathing of food, want of appetite, and an uncertain one at best, indigestion, indolence, a heavy pain and pressure in the stomach, and more particularly so after eating, groundless fears, a spasm of the throat, a frequent spitting of limpid, and sometimes tough phlegm, heart-burn, cardialgia, flushings in the face, gripings, palpitations of the heart, a burning heat in the tongue, terrible apprehensions, straitness of the breast, pain and difficulty in making water, listlessness, and a fancied inability to move at all, a rumbling noise in the bowels, a frequent inclination to stool, a sense of fullness in the stomach and bowels, the piles, dullness,

ness, irresolution, decay of strength, wasting of the body, pains in the head and joints, wild ideas, and most extravagant fancies foreboding dreadful events, great fickleness of temper, petulance, impatience, inquietude, anxiety, terror, and sadness.—To these may be added the conclusion of Dr. Mead, when speaking of the Hypochondriac Affection, he says,

*“ Non unam fedet habet sed morbus totius
“ corporis est.”*



C A S E VIII.

A GENTLEMAN, in the eight and fortieth year of his age, after a long-continued course of drinking, about the month of August 1770, complained of a violent head-ach whenever he walked or rode, but was easier whenever the body was in an incumbent posture. He was naturally of a sensible, nervous system, but had never before been subject to a pain in the head; which now, upon every motion, seemed to affect the whole part of it; his eyes
were

were dull and heavy, he had a nausea at his stomach, and his head was continually reclined on his arm. An emetic was administered, some blood taken away, and a blister applied between the shoulders; a partial cessation of the pain was the consequence, and it now became periodical, returning every evening about nine o'clock, and ceasing sometimes about four, five, or six in the morning. In the intervals the cortex took place, and in a few days with the desired success; yet a giddiness remained; he became low-spirited, solitary, and thoughtful; his appetite was impaired, and though unattended with sweats, his body visibly declined; he was often seized with a syncope, tremors, sinkings, and flatulencies in his stomach

stomach and bowels, which frequently
 occasioned violent spasms; he had a
 direct nervous cough, the pulse in ge-
 neral was too fast, his days were anxious,
 and his nights restless and uneasy. About
 the latter end of October in the same
 year he applied to me, relating his case
 with much hurry of spirits, while tears
 trickled down his cheeks as he spoke,
 and he prophesied his approaching exit.
 I endeavoured to soothe his emotion
 with tender and cheerful promises of
 assisting his distress, and enjoining him
 to a proper diet with moderate exer-
 cise. At bed-time I prescribed the
 warm pediluvium, and exhibited a
 small quantity of laudanum in a neu-
 tral draught; and in the day-time,
 when the pulse was found to be at the
 slowest,

flowest, administer'd the cortex in decoction wherein gum arabic was soluted. He very exactly conformed to the rules enjoined, and in eight weeks time, with little variation of the medicines, except now and then increasing the opiate, and adding a few drops of Mynsicht's tincture of steel to the decoction, he recovered of his debility; the pulse subsided to a regular and natural vibration, the cough ceased, the appetite returned; and, by a plan of living consistently temperate, he, to this day, enjoys an uninterrupted state of health. In the management of this case, if we do not altogether extol the soothing efficacy of the opiate, or yield the cure to the bracing qualities of the cortex; yet, every one, who is reduced
by

by excessive drinking, has here a most encouraging example before his eyes, to try the good effects of abstaining from too much liquor; and giving into a proper regulation of diet before the bounds of Nature are entirely demolished, and the constitution so far disabled, as to be in an undone and irremediable state.



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encouraging example before his eyes,
to try the good effect of abstaining
from too much liquor; and giving into
a proper regulation of diet before the
powers of Nature are entirely de-
bilitated, and the constitution is ir-
retrievably altered, as to be in an un-
derstandable state.

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thorax, and the respiration was far from being naturally free; which, notwithstanding many endeavours for relief, was the case till the month of October following, when he was taken with pains in one ancle and foot, which terminated in a fit of the gout of eight days; during which time the breathing was unconfined, but the gouty paroxysm ceasing, the oppression returned; his memory failed, and he frequently complained of a sensation of cold, comparable to cold water being dropped upon his back, with a sense of stiffness in his arms and legs. The pulse was in general at ninety-five, a hundred, and sometimes above; an acceleration, chiefly attributed by the gentleman who attended him, to the heating qualities

qualities of a nervous medicine he had procured from an advertisement. He had generally a great depression of spirits, attended by sighing, a nausea, and a total aversion to food. Under these distressing circumstances, in the December following, he was advised to try me. I found him much emaciated, and scarcely able to walk across the room without assistance. As the alimentary canal was in a most debilitated state, my first intention was to strengthen the *primæ viæ*; which I began to effect by evacuations equal to the strength of the patient, that I might make way for a chalybeate, on whose efficacy experience had taught me to found much hope of success. I advised a thick flannel waistcoat to be continually worn,
and

and opened a large issue between the scapulæ: Four drops of BOERHAAVE'S *Strengthening Chalybeate Tincture* were exhibited three times a day in a weak infusion of bark, as the most proper vehicle I could think of; which I continued for a month together, now and then omitting it for a day or two, and adopting in its stead a gentle laxative, incessantly paying a due regard to his regimen, which, as his appetite strengthened, was rendered proportionably liberal. Through the second month the same plan was invariably pursued, except an increase of the tincture to six drops. On the first day of March following he complained of a pain in his foot, which increased to a fit of the gout that held him ten days; the respiration, (which, previous

vious to the paroxysm, was considerably relieved, by the discharge from the fontinell in the back,) was now not in the least oppressed, and, upon the going off of the gout, scarcely troublesome at all. The drops and infusion were occasionally continued. The gout has attacked him but one since, viz. in the autumn of 1775, and the hypochondriacal symptoms have not been troublesome to him at all.—

BOERHAAVE'S *Strengthening Chalybeate Tincture* of steel is thus prepared:

TAKE of filings of steel *one ounce,*
 of very sharp distilled vinegar *ten*
ounces, of sugar *three ounces;* boil
 them *twenty-six hours* in a tall phial,
 and when filtrated, preserve the
 infusion in a glass vessel.

As

As the good effects this patient received from the above excellent chalybeate serves to evince the great efficacy of such medicines, with a suitable regimen, where there is a particular delicacy or debility in the nervous system. It may not be deemed heterogeneous to my present design, to mention a chalybeate spring, at TENTERDEN, in this county; which has been lately enclosed by Mrs. LOTT, of that place. Previous to which, I have been informed, upon the most reputable testimony, that several people of that town and its vicinity, had happily experienced its virtues in debilities of the nerves of the head and stomach; and in cases of the Scurvy, diarrhoea, and some other disorders. The water of this spring, upon

exa-

examination, is found to possess strong chalybeate powers, entirely exempt from any aluminous or sulphureous taint. And as many Gentlemen and Ladies, of weak nerves and relaxed habits, have experienced its salutary efficacy, it gives me pleasure to do justice to its virtues, by recommending it as a most excellent mineral spring, whose properties deserve the greatest commendation; and, whose inherent good qualities, might do credit to the medicinal investigation of the most finished pen.



K

CASE

examination is found to be a strong
characteristic power, entirely
from any influence of the
mind. And as many gentlemen and
ladies of weak nerves and relaxed
habits have experienced its efficacy,
it gives me pleasure to do
justice to its virtues, by recommending
it as a most excellent mineral
spring, whose properties relieve the
greatest commotion; and, while in
percent good drinking, might do credit
to the medicinal investigation of the
most finished pen.
The water is found to be a
very important part of the
water in the system.
I

CASE

C A S E X.

IN hypochondriacal, as well as hysterical, and nervous complaints, there seems to be scarcely a possibility of fixing a true criterion, by which they may be separately classed, or distinctly marked, from each other, should the following Case therefore be thought to fall *mal a propos*, upon the hypochondriacal line of disorders. The difficulty of distinction in such cases, may, it is presumed, plead an excuse for its appearance here; especially,

whilst the fidelity of its narration will fully exculpate the author, from the least shadow of impropriety in placing it under the head of occasional causes, adapted to this publication.

A GENTLEMAN, of thirty years of age, of an exquisitely sensible nervous system, subject from his childhood to tremors and faintings, was, on the ninth day of January 1775, from a sudden fright, as it was supposed, attacked with a violent pain in the occiput, which continued to the twelfth of the same month, when my assistance was asked; and, upon attending, I found, that he had had some intermission of the pain, and, that about six weeks before this head-ach began, an abscess on the

the parotid glands, (which after discharging pretty freely,) had, on a sudden, dried up. I was therefore led to believe, the cause not immediately resulting from the fright, but more probably from the morbid matter lodged in the blood. The patient had a pale languid countenance, heaviness in his eyes, a quick pulse, and hectic heats. I immediately ordered the occiput to be shaved, and a blister to be applied thereon; at bed-time the warm pediluvium was advised, and the use of a camphorated julep he had by him forbade, as too heating for so quick a pulse. A neutral julep, with sixty drops of the elixir paregoricum, was given to two spoonsful every four or five hours, with a laxative medicine occasionally.

caſionally. The patient was kept very quiet and free from company, and, till the 19th day of the ſame month, this plan was unremittingly purſued, with little or no alteration or advantage to the patient; therefore, on the 20th, I began to give him a decoction of the bark, nitre, and valerian. The bliſter was kept in an open ſtate, and the pain in the head, by the 27th, was conſiderably abated; when I obſerved a cutaneous eruption to have ſpread over the whole ſurface of his body; and in the evening of the ſame day he complained of a pain, heat, and tenſion, in the left axilla. Cardiacs and ſtomachics now took place, an abſceſs formed in the pained part, which was brought to maturation by
the

the common methods, and discharged copiously for several days; but at length abating, an issue was opened in the arm, mild alteratives were exhibited, and for his habitual lowness of spirits, and faintings, a musk julep was administered for about a month afterwards; which was found so very beneficial to him, that, to this time, whenever he finds the tremblings, depressions, or faintings, he has recourse to this medicine, from which, at least, he is certain to find some temporary assistance. The pain in his head has never been in the least troublesome since the discharge from the abscess disappeared, and that of the fontinell began.

CASE

of common methods, and discharging
regularly for several days, but as
the urine was opened in
the urine, and the urine was
hard and for his habitual
of food and fasting, a milk
was administered for about a month
afterwards, which was found to be
essential to him, that to this time
whenever he finds the
depression of his
could not be
lost, he is certain to find some
very difficult. The pain in his
has never been in the least
since since the discharge from the
cells disappeared, and that of the
tissue began.

THE
HYSTERIC PASSION;

“ A Disorder peculiar to the FAIR SEX, differing in most cases very essentially from the HYPOCHONDRIAC AFFECTION, both in Cause and Situation.”

THE fits accompanying this complaint are, in general, very uncertain; in some, they will return weekly, or monthly; in others, four, five, or six times in a year, or oftener,

L

upon

upon any sudden commotion of the mind, or disturbance of the spirits; by fear, grief, anger, or disappointment; wind, and acrid humours, vellicating the nerves of the stomach and intestines, will frequently produce the fits in women of a delicate habit, whose nervous system is naturally weak and irritable. The symptoms preceding the fits, are different in different persons; those attending them, are well known, to be a difficult respiration, and sometimes weak and easy, as if the patient was asleep, convulsed agonies of the whole body, involuntary laughter and crying, paleness of the face, coldness of the extremities, oppression, anxiety, reaching to vomit, a violent rising in the throat, and often a strong

strong intermitting pulse. After the fit is gone off the patient frequently complains of universal soreness, pain in the head, noise in the ears, dimness of sight, the pulse becomes quicker, and more regular, and the patient either relapses into another fit, or falls asleep, and, for that time, recovers. Much more might be added, were it not almost impossible to describe and enumerate the variety of symptoms attendant on either this or the Hypochondriac disorder; for, as the sagacious Sydenham has very wisely observed: “ The
 “ shapes of Proteus, or the colours of
 “ the Camelion, are not more numerous and inconsistent, than the variations of the Hypochondriac or Hysterical disease.”

L 2

CASE

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C A S E XI.

A YOUNG LADY, nineteen years of age, was, in August 1773, suddenly seized with a depression of spirits, want of appetite, giddiness, and great pain and uneasiness in the back, without any probable reason for such an alteration in her mind and health. I was applied to on the twenty-fifth of the same month, when the height of the pulse was up to a hundred and ten, the affection of the mind very great, she sighed often, looked despondent,

ent, shed tears, and breathed quick and hard; some blood was immediately taken from the arm, and a vesicatory on the same evening applied to the back, a neutral mixture with a paregoric was administered, and she rested pretty well that night. On the morning following she appeared much relieved, but in the afternoon was suddenly attacked with a strong hysteric fit, which held her, with very little intermission, for five hours, with violent catchings and convulsions; when she came out of the fit she complained of pain in her ears and eyes, sickness at her stomach, and rising in her throat, became listless, yawned, stretched, and suddenly relapsed into a second fit. As she was of a delicate constitution, and
not-

notwithstanding these complaints, the blood pure, and of a healthy complexion, and phlebotomy had so lately been used, I did not choose to repeat it; but advised a continuance of the warm pediluvium, which had not been omitted from the beginning of the fits; at the same time, the assistants were ordered to rub the hands, arms, and belly, with warm cloths. No motion to stool having happened for the last twelve hours, a laxative clyster, with asafœtida, was administered, and in the space of two hours she again came to herself; at first she talked extravagant and incoherently, but soon became composed and rational, took a spoonful of camphorated julep, and was put into bed, where she soon fell into a dose, and a
dia-

diaphoresis following: I found her much better in the morning, the pulse was below eighty, the skin cool and moist, she had no complaint in her head, the clyster had operated, and she was much better than I had seen her at all. As the nerves were in a most debilitated state, I exhibited a decoction of orange-peel, with a few chalybeate drops, twice a day; recommended her to change of air, moderate exercise, and cold-bathing, with a uniform and steady perseverance in the bitter infusion, and drops; which advice being most strictly attended to, she had no return of the fits, but remained entirely well till the month of December following; when she exchanged a single for a marriage state; and is now completely happy in
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an uninterrupted enjoyment of health, heightened by the endearing tenderness of a most amiable partner, and two children, the blooming pledges of connubial felicity.



M

CASE

an uninterrupted enjoyment of health
 heightened by the endearing togeth-
 ness of a most amiable partner, and
 two children, the blooming stages of
 conjugal felicity.

C A S E XII.

A WOMAN, aged forty-three, of a hale constitution, was subject to hysteric fits, which had returned with great violence at short intervals, for the last two years; she had had recourse to every means she could think of, or afford: infomuch, that from tolerable circumstances she was reduced to extreme need, and at length became an object of parochial consideration; by whose direction she was put under my care in the beginning of the year 1773. As she always complained of a

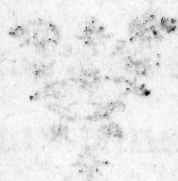
load and weight at the stomach, I exhibited an emetic, and afterwards prescribed a pill every night, consisting of two grains of asafœtida, and half a grain of opium, with every third night two spoonsful of an infusion of hiera picra, omitting the pill. The fits returned at intervals, after the commencement of this course, for about three months; but in every succession became weaker, and the patient recovered her strength and a tolerable share of health; but if at any time she perceived a sense of suffocation, an oppression at her stomach, or great anxiety of mind, the symptoms usually fore-running the fit, she had immediate recourse to the above medicines, which infallibly relieved her. Much may be here ascribed

bed to the antispasmodic quality of the opium; especially, as it is certain, that this patient had often before taken great quantities of the fetid gums, without any manifest relief.



CASE

bed to the antipathetic quality of the
 opium: especially, as it is certain, that
 this patient had often before taken
 great quantities of the same gums with-
 out any manifest effect.



CASE

C A S E XIII.

A WOMAN, about thirty years of age, applied to me in February 1775; she had been subject to the highest hysteric symptoms for two years past; and, during that time, was scarcely ever free from them for a fortnight together; had frequent convulsive catchings, and the least noise or fright would immediately throw her into hysteric fits. She had applied to a very worthy and sensible Gentleman of the faculty, in the neighbourhood where she lived; who, uninfluenced

fluenced by the least hope of reward
 (as she was poor, and in very necessi-
tous circumstances) had paid very par-
 ticular attention to her complaints; but
 his humane endeavours had hitherto
 proved unsuccessful: from him I learn-
 ed she had taken frequent vomits, been
 blistered, taken castor, muls, and other
 antispasmodic medicines; but that he
 had never been able even to shorten the
 paroxysms. It was now six days since
 she had a fit; the pulse was full, and
 her appearance rather plethoric; I bled
 her to eight ounces; the blood was fizy
 and inflamed, and separated but little
 serum, which was of a yellowish tinge.
 I gave her in a solution of the asafœtida
 half a drachm of purified nitre, and
 twenty drops of the tinctura thebaica,
 for

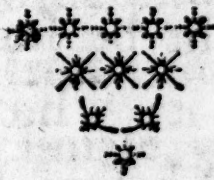
for two nights at bed-time; and, on every third evening, a gentle laxative medicine. Besides this, the anti-hysterical plaister was applied to the abdomen, and I administered a nitrous apozem to take twice a day, desiring to hear from her in three weeks at farthest; in which time she came herself, and with much cheerfulness told me, she had had to return of her fits, but, that her legs were much swelled and inflamed. The pulse was very full, and admitted of losing more blood; which, however, had not the inflammatory appearance of the last. I opened an issue in her leg, and desired she would omit the night-draught for a week; which she did, only for two nights, and was seized with the Cramp in her left leg

N

and

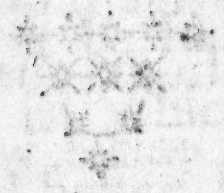
and thigh, succeeded by an hysteric spasm of the whole body, which continued near an hour; the shortest space the bye-standers had remembered to have seen her suffer in any fit for twelve months before. I ordered her to repeat the draught occasionally, to use the warm pediluvium, and to lose a small quantity of blood whenever the pulse might be found in a condition to bear it; which, the Gentleman, who had before been employed, most civilly and condescendingly took upon him to observe. And the patient, in the May following, having, in the interim, no return of her fits, personally assured me she was quite recovered. In the December after, she was again attacked with an hysteric

teric fit, being thrown into it by a violent gust of passion; but the same means being again used, she recovered, and has had no return of it since.



CASE

and, it being thrown into it by a
violent gust of passion; but the same
means being again used, the reco-
vered, and had no return of it more.



being much weakened by anxiety, and
the pulse quick and soft, bleeding in
~~the morning, and it was more than~~

an hour before she could swallow,
when I gave her two spoonfuls of
C A S E XIV.

A LADY, about the age of thirty, by
long-continued grief and distress
of mind; for which she had in vain
sought relief, from change of place,
company, and climate, was, in Novem-
ber 1776, attacked with an hysterical
fit, in which I was called to assist her.
The stomach was greatly inflated, she
had violent reachings to vomit, the
globus hystericus in her throat, palpi-
tation of the heart, and convulsive mo-
tions of the extremities. The system
being

being much weakened by anxiety, and the pulse quick and soft, bleeding in the fit was rejected, it was more than an hour before she could swallow; when I gave her two spoonsful of a cordial julep with castor, and as soon as recovered from the fits endeavoured to soothe her nights with opiates; but she had so constitutional an antipathy towards them, that they made her more restless and uneasy, and were obliged to be declined. She was exceedingly reduced, from a fresh colour and lively presence, to a pallid, dejected appearance; the alimentary canal was much weakened, and the stomach loaded with phlegm, which I endeavoured to remove by an emetic; which, though very mild in its operation,

tion, so extremely irritable was the system, that a second fit ensued, from which, it was more than three hours before she entirely recovered. A galbanum plaister, with a little asafoetida and camphor, was applied to the umbilical region, and two spoonsful of a camphorated julep exhibited at bed-time, with which she rested pretty well; and I was now encouraged to hope for that assistance from the camphor, which had been denied me in the opium; and herein was happily not mistaken, for by giving her three spoonsful of the camphorated julep every night at bed-time, it answered the same end. The narcotic efficacy of the camphor, in some few instances, I had experienced before; but, in this case,
it

it was most particularly so. A decoction of orange-peels, with BOERHAAVE'S *most excellent Strengthening Chalybeate*, was prescribed to her twice a day; and, with much sollicitation, she was prevailed on to be more liberal in her diet, and chearful in her conversation; which, in a few weeks, removed the solicitude of her mind, and braced the habit to its pristine tone.



CASE

C A S E X V .

A YOUNG WOMAN, of nineteen, had been subject to hysteric fits for three years, which returned very irregularly; sometimes, at the distance of a week or fortnight; and at others, a month or five weeks. In April 1776, she asked my advice, complaining of a voracious appetite, fetid breath, tension of the stomach and abdomen, disturbed nights, pains in her sides and bowels, and an habitual dry cough; her complexion was pale and wan; and she was subject to nervous tremblings.

O

On

On questioning her, I found, that about six months before, she had brought away from her stomach, by vomit, three worms; which, according to her own description, were of the large round kind, distinguished by the name of Teres; from this account, and the symptoms she complained of, there was the highest probability, that her fits were occasioned by worms. I prescribed her a course of the bitter purgatives; which, after having taken about a fortnight, expelled by stool, five large round worms, of the Teres kind. Between the purgations I gave her a strong decoction of chamomile, with the *Chalybeate Tincture*; in which course she continued with the most exact regularity, from the twenty-first of April till

till the third day of June following; in which time the hysteric fits had returned but twice, and that within the first three weeks, much weaker than usual, and she remained free from them till the latter end of November; when, after complaining of her head and stomach for several days, she was again attacked with an hysteric fit, which I had reason to suspect was occasioned by a regeneration of the vermicular animals. Accordingly I again prescribed the bitter purges; after the second of which, at the end of five days, she voided by stool three small round worms; the purges were continued, with proper intermissions, for six weeks, but without the appearance of any more worms. On the intervening

O 2

days

days I strengthened her stomach with small doses of the Peruvian bark, given in substance. By which kind of treatment she has had no return of her fits, enjoys a very good state of health; and, at present, finds it unnecessary to use any kind of medicinal assistance.



N E R V O U S
D I S O R D E R S.

TO expatiate distinctly upon every complaint, and enumerate every symptom, which carries the name of NERVOUS, would be almost an endless task. I shall therefore take the liberty of giving the common, and most remarkable symptoms, in the words of the ingenious Dr. WHYT, viz.

“ WIND in the stomach and intestines, sour belchings, squeamishness,
“ heart-

“ heart-burning, and vomiting of a wa-
 “ try stuff, tough phlegm, or a black
 “ liquor like the grounds of coffee;
 “ want of appetite, and indigestion, or
 “ an uncommon craving for food and
 “ quick digestion, a debility, faintness,
 “ and sense of great emptiness about
 “ the stomach, when hungry; a strong
 “ desire for rare or uncommon sorts of
 “ food, or for things that can afford no
 “ nourishment; a visible swelling or in-
 “ flation of the stomach, especially after
 “ eating; sometimes a severe pain, with
 “ cramps in that *viscus*; an oppression
 “ about the *præcordia*; an uneasy,
 “ though not painful sensation, about
 “ the stomach, attended with low spi-
 “ rits, anxiety, and sometimes great
 “ timidity; strong pulsations within the
 “ belly,

“ belly, spasms in the bowels, and dis-
 “ tensions of certain portions of them;
 “ violent cholic pains, a rumbling noise
 “ from wind passing through the intes-
 “ tines, the body sometimes too lax,
 “ oftener bound; pains in the back and
 “ belly, resembling those of the nephri-
 “ tic kind; a sense of irritation and
 “ heat in the neck of the bladder and
 “ *urethra*, with a frequent desire to
 “ make water; a great discharge of lim-
 “ pid urine; at other times a frequent
 “ spitting. Sudden flushings of heat over
 “ the whole body, shiverings, a sense
 “ of cold in certain parts, as if water
 “ was poured on them, at other times
 “ an unusual glow; flying pains in the
 “ arms and limbs; a troublesome pain
 “ in the back, and between the shoul-
 “ ders;

“ ders; pains, attended with a hot sen-
 “ sation, shifting often from the sides
 “ or back to the interior parts of the
 “ abdomen, cramps, or convulsive mo-
 “ tions of the muscles, or of a few of
 “ their fibres; sudden startings of the
 “ legs and arms, almost constant invo-
 “ luntary motions of the muscles of the
 “ neck and head, or arms and legs; a
 “ general convulsion affecting, at once,
 “ the stomach, bowels, throat, legs,
 “ arms, and, indeed, almost the whole
 “ members of the body, in which the
 “ patient struggles as in a violent epilep-
 “ tic fit; long faintings, in some cases,
 “ following one another after short in-
 “ tervals. Palpitations or trembling of
 “ the heart; the pulse very variable, fre-
 “ quently natural, sometimes uncom-
 “ monly

“ monly flow, and at other times quick,
“ oftener small than full, and, on cer-
“ tain occasions, irregular or intermit-
“ ting; a dry cough, with difficulty of
“ breathing, or a constriction of the
“ lungs, sometimes returning periodi-
“ cally; yawning, the hiccup, frequent
“ sighings, and a sense of suffocation,
“ as from a ball or lump in the throat;
“ fits of crying, and convulsive laugh-
“ ing. Although in the day-time the
“ patients are generally pretty cool, and
“ the pulse sometimes slower than na-
“ tural; yet, in the night, especially in
“ time of sleep, hot flushings often
“ spread over almost the whole body,
“ the pulse becomes quicker and
“ stronger, and a faintness, or some
“ degree of sickness at the stomach is
“ felt;

“ felt; a giddiness, especially after
 “ rising up hastily; pains in the head,
 “ sometimes returning periodically; a
 “ violent pain in a small part of the
 “ head, not larger than a shilling, as if
 “ a nail was driven into it; a ringing in
 “ the ears; a dimness of sight, and ap-
 “ pearance of a thick mist, without any
 “ visible fault in the eyes. Objects are
 “ sometimes seen double, and unusual
 “ smells are perceived; obstinate watch-
 “ ings, attended sometimes with an un-
 “ easiness which is not to be described,
 “ but which is lessened by getting out
 “ of bed; disturbed sleep, frightful
 “ dreams, the night-mare; sometimes a
 “ drowsiness, and too great an inclina-
 “ tion to sleep; fear, peevishness, sad-
 “ ness, despair; at other times, high
 “ spirits;

“ spirits; wandering thoughts, impaired
 “ memory, ridiculous fancies; strange
 “ persuasions of their labouring under
 “ diseases of which they are quite
 “ free; and imagining their complaints
 “ to be as dangerous as they find them
 “ troublesome, they are often angry
 “ with those who would convince them
 “ of their mistake.”



C A S E XVI.

A GENTLEMAN, five and fifty years of age, had, for three years together, been afflicted with a most complicated nervous disorder, attended with great dejection, horrors, flatulencies, tremblings, catchings, unconnected thoughts, wandring ideas, impaired memory, giddinefs, pain in his head, palpitation of the heart, and numbnefs in his hands and fingers. In the beginning of the year 1772, he had been advifed to try a courfe of nervous medicines immediately under the

the care of a Gentleman in London, celebrated for his peculiar attention to disorders of this kind; but in the May following, he returned into the country, not at all benefited by the experiment; soon after which he was seized with the dysentery, which, after continuing three days, was submitted to my care; when I gave him a gentle emetic, of fifteen grains of ipecacuanha; and afterwards, to ease the violent pain he complained of in his intestines, and defend their internal coats from the acrid humours which vellicated them, I ordered the starch clyster, with half an ounce of diacodium in each, to be thrown up three times a day; and milk, impregnated with iron, was frequently given in small quantities, which proved

proved effectual, and the dysentery was subdued; but, in a few days after, the numbness in his hands and fingers, which he had long before complained of, increased, and he was attacked with a paralytic stroke in his right arm, which felt very cold, and the pulse was sensibly lower and weaker in that than in the other arm. A vesicatory was applied above and below the cubit, and an embrocation used of an antiparalytic kind: composed of an ounce and a half of cantharides in powder; half an ounce of the seeds of bishop's weed, and a quart of rectified spirits of wine; digested for a few days, and then strained off for use. On the medicinal hours, for many days together, he took two scruples, in a dose, of valerian powdered,

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in a glass of white wine; and fifty castor drops of a night, going to-bed, in a cup-ful of weak chocolate. In about three weeks, the muscles of the disordered arm recovered their natural tone, and he could handle any thing with his natural sense of feeling; and, at the end of three months, he was entirely recovered of the paralysis; and his nervous symptoms were, in general, much alleviated. To brace the solids, and accelerate the blood's motion, the cold-bath was advised, with the use of the *strengthening chalybeate drops*; which, with proper exercise, and diet, re-established his health; so, that in the October following, he had scarcely any nervous symptom; nor have I heard any complaint of that kind since.

CASE

C A S E XVII.

IT is generally allowed difficult to fix a just criterion, by which nervous disorders may be distinguished from others; but where there is a universal delicacy of the whole frame, with too great a degree of sensibility of the nervous system; as in the case I am about to recite, no impropriety can appear in calling the case truly *nervous*. The subject, was a YOUNG LADY, of so exquisitely a delicate habit, that the highest nervous,

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and hyfteric fpafms, were produced, by the application, only, of a blister; which, in the courfe of many trials, ſhe, for three years paſt, had unſucceſsfully made, had more, than once, been recommended, and never, without cauſing thoſe ſymptoms. In the autumn of the year 1773, ſhe applied to an eminent phyſician, in London, who had endeavoured to appeaſe the ſpafms by opiates; but ſhe could not bear them in the quantity at firſt preſcribed, and, though given in ſmaller doſes, the antipathy recurred. Bitters, with the bark, were tried; immerſion in cold water, proper exerciſe, and change of air, were not neglected; a religious obſervation had been paid to the diet; watry and flatulent food was rejected;

rejected; and every thing that could be thought corruptive of the blood, or enervating to the tone of the stomach, cautiously abstained from. Nervous powders and drops had been taken; but her heat, flushings, and palpitations, were not lessened by them: and every exhibition of sagapenum, galbanum, asafœtida, penny-royal water, volatile spirits, bark, tincture of wood foot, and musk, was found equally unsuccessful. In April 1775 she applied to me, and related her case with great precision and exactness; complaining of pain in her back, and weakness of her stomach, very uneasy and watchful nights, want of appetite, lowness of spirits, flutterings, flushings in her face, heat in the palms

of her hands, loathings, and a swimming in her head. I could do no less than acquaint her of the little prospect left to be serviceable in this case, after the experienced and approved characters she had named, to have consulted; whose confessedly superior abilities, perspicuity, and judgment, having been employed in vain, served to leave but little hope for my best endeavours. However, finding her willing to try something, and partial to my directions; in order to strengthen the alimentary canal, and allay the febrile heats, I prescribed her ten drops of acid elixir of vitriol, every morning, at eleven, and afternoon, at four o'clock, in a cup of rosemary tea; and, at bed-time, exhibited a neutral draught, with one drop of the tinctura thebaica, increasing

increasing the dose guttatim; till, at length, she could take eighteen or twenty of them, without experiencing the ill effects which had before resulted from the exhibition of the same medicine. By a continuance of these means only, in the beginning of June following, I had the satisfaction to find the spasms appeased, and her nights uninterrupted; the stomach was invigorated, the digestion amended, the pulse cooled, and lowered to a natural uniformity of motion; her spirits were relieved, the swimming in her head was removed; and she has since enjoyed as good a state of health as she had ever done before, or probably ever can expect to do, with one, whose nervous frame is naturally so sensible delicate and irritable.

✍ IT

IT is but right to premise, that in the FIVE SUBSEQUENT CASES, where the acid elixir of vitriol, in an infusion of betony, was taken to advantage, that the complaints were of long establishment; that acids were not, at any time, disagreeable to the patients; and, that these cases are selected from a great many others of less note, and continuance, where the elixir of vitriol has been successfully administered.

C A S E XVIII.

A SINGLE LADY, about the age of thirty, had, for years, complained of weakness of the head, and whole body;

body; at times been subject to startings, twitchings, indigestion, thirst, wind, and hectic heats. She had taken variety of remedies for disorders of the nerves, which had scarcely ever yielded her temporary ease, and much impaired her circumstances. Pains and uneasiness in her stomach and belly she almost incessantly complained of, was frequently low-spirited, and the pulse was always too quick. On the 13th day of September 1774, I prescribed the elixir to be taken in an infusion of common Betony, with two ounces of strong cinnamon water to a quart; which, upon many trials, I had found deserved the preference as its vehicle. She at first began with eight drops, in a cup-ful of it once a day, and

and finding it agree with her, was encouraged to take it twice: she found it invigorate her more than any thing she had taken before; and, by the almost unremitting use of it twice a day, till the February following, she grew surprizingly better; and, if at any time, she has occasion to fear a return of her old symptoms, she has immediate recourse to this medicine, as a certain assistance and relief.



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CASE

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NEW YORK, N. Y.

C A S E X I X .

A POOR MAN, had been in a very low and dejected state, for upwards of two years, with loss of memory, pain in his stomach, horrors, mist before his eyes, noise in his ears, universal weakness of the nervous system, palpitation of the heart, loss of appetite, and numbness in the extremities. An opulent neighbour of his, had, most humanely, procured him some of the first advice in this kingdom, the Spaw waters, and some adver-

tised Nervines ; but without any effect. By my direction he pursued a course of the elixir and infusion, and, in less than six month's time, by the entire use of them alone, got so far the better of his complaints, that he was enabled to gain his own livelihood by hard labour. He began to take these medicines about the 29th of June 1775, at first, only once a day, in the quantity of six or eight drops ; and afterwards increased them to five and twenty, twice in that time.



CASE

C A S E XX.

A MAN, about six and thirty, who had greatly impaired his health, by excess of drinking, applied to me in January 1775, complaining of many nervous symptoms; such as a constant pain in his head, weakness of stomach, violent oppression of wind, sudden tremors, causeless fears, reachings, loathings, dizziness, and want of appetite. He had been more than three years in this state, without finding any relief, from the frequent experiments he had made

made of many medicines, judged to be specifically nervous; his habit of drinking he had curtailed, almost to a plan of temperance, with which I wished him rigidly to comply, as the most effectual chance of relief from the medicines I should give him; he faithfully promised to acquiesce, and as he lived at a great distance from me, a quantity of the drops and decoction, sufficient for three months, was given him; but it was near three weeks, before the expiration of that time, that I received a letter from him, couched in the strongest terms, of the most respectful gratitude, which he entertained for the service I had done him, and desiring, that his case might be made public;

public; which, I did not then choofe to comply with, on account of re-serving it for this publication.



CASE

[171]

1. The first of these is the fact that the
2. second is the fact that the
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C A S E XXI.

A M A N, near fifty years of age, applied to me in the month of February 1776, with a letter from a Gentleman of the Faculty, in the village where he lived, describing his case to be of two years standing; that it was nervous, and wishing, that I would endeavour to assist him. His symptoms, as the letter expressed, were a soft quick pulse, the nervous and vascular system debilitated, a slow fever, indigestion, cold chills with flushing heats, giddiness, weak stomach,

mach, heat of urine, trembling and weakness in the knees, no refreshment from sleep, oppression of wind, flying pains over the whole body, pale urine, and sometimes a sensation of cold of short duration. The letter added, that he had taken the common Nervines; bitters had not been omitted; and, that sea-bathing had been used: but all without the wish'd-for success. The sea-bathing I desired might again be tried, and continued for some time: advised an opiate at bed-time, and recommended the acid drops and be-tonic infusion, to be given at the discretion of the Gentleman who had favoured me with his case, and who very kindly undertook to observe my directions; the result of which was, another

another letter from him in the June following, acquainting me, that he had punctually, and without variation, adhered to my plan, and, had the pleasure to inform me, the patient was amazingly amended for the better.



another letter from him in the June
 following, acquainting me, that he had
 punctually, and without variation, at-
 tended to my plan, and had the grati-
 fication to inform me, the present was
 amply amended for the better.

It is now some time, that I have
 been thinking of writing to you, but
 have been so much occupied, that I
 have not had time to do so. I am
 now at home, and I am very glad
 to hear from you. I am well, and
 hope you are the same. I am
 very much interested in your
 progress, and I am sure you will
 be successful. I am, my dear friend,
 ever your affectionate friend,
 and I am sure you will be
 ever my friend.

C A S E XXII.

A YOUNG MAN, of about twenty, in a low and relaxed state, with a constitution seemingly pre-disposed to nervous symptoms, had, for sixteen months, greatly suffered from symptoms of the highest nervous kind. He had tried bark, steel, valerian, asafoetida, castor, musk, camphor, and change of air; but had received no permanent relief from either. In January last, he sought my assistance; and, by eleven weeks continuance in a course of
the

the acid drops and infusion, with the use of the cold bath, the solids were ~~braced, the vibrations invigorated, and~~ the body and nerves restored to a strength, equal to that which they had possessed in his best state of health.

T H I S being the last Case communicable, at present; the **AUTHOR**, thinks it but an act of justice in him, to add: **THAT PUBLIC ENCOURAGEMENT** having kept pace with his assiduity to deserve it, and more particularly
so,

so, in regard to INSANE PATIENTS; it might seem an unpardonable neglect, were he to close this ESSAY, without expressing the most grateful acknowledgments to his employers in general; for whose favours, and good opinion, he shall ever remain much more indebted, than to any kind of self-assumed merit.

F I N I S.